

AMHERST/LA PAZ CENTRO SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Minutes

July 18, 2012

PRESENT: Liz Etheridge, Chuck and Nancy Milch, Kathy Mullin, Mary Santiago, Anne and Ed Stanek, Lydia Vernon Jones.

LIZ AND MARY'S TRIP

Mary and Liz submitted an excellent, detailed report of their trip to La Paz Centro in June. It is attached to these Minutes. Some additional information is as follows:

*Julio thought that it would be a good idea to ask for some payment for electricity from the family (Dora's family) who are now residing at the Community Center.

*The Community Center is being used as a Clinic by an outside agency. We had some questions regarding this:

Is the agency a For-Profit agency?

If so, are they paying rent?

*The electricity payments are still high. Julio sent receipts which Kathy will review. Our questions regarding this are:

Is the price being charged us more per Kilowatt Hour (KWH) than for others in the neighborhood?

Is the company charging us for more KWH than seems reasonable?

*There was a medical student at Leon University who had been interested in volunteering at the La Paz Centro Community Center. We wondered if that had come to fruition?

*Many La Paz Centro residents receive income from relatives who are living and working outside the country – particularly from Costa Rica.

*There is evidence of recycling in the neighborhood. People have bags that they fill with recyclables and a truck comes around weekly to collect them.

The main road through Felipe Lopez (past Rosario's and Yolanda's) has been paved with cement bricks.

BANKING

Anne is working on the necessary certifications for the bank in Managua. The first step is to get our membership list in order, which will then be notarized by the town and sent on to the State for further notarization.

Mary mentioned that our report needs to include the origin of our funding as well as a Mission Statement and Bylaws.

TAG SALE

The Annual Tag Sale is on Saturday, September 8th from 9 am to 2 pm. Anne has reserved the Northeast side of the Common for this September as well as for the following September, 2013.

Anne will make sure that a notice gets into the Gazette, requesting donations and announcing the Tag Sale. An updated flyer is attached to these Minutes. Anne will also submit a notice to the First Church Online Bulletin as well as the Register. Others will distribute flyers to neighbors, etc.

The Fleiner-Etheridges will provide their truck, the Mullins will borrow one and the Milches will bring their trailer. Furniture pickups will happen on Friday afternoon and early Saturday morning.

Nancy is taking on contacting Lisa Hall in Northampton about book pickup at the end of the Tag Sale. She will also bring the supplies for pricing the items.

Walter will take charge of contacting the Methodist Church to borrow their tables.

Lydia suggested that we try to find someone who might like to play a little acoustic guitar and sing to draw attention to our Tag Sale.

Our NEXT MEETING will be on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29TH AT 7:30 PM IN ROOM 101 of the BANGS CENTER.**

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Stanek